PCT Shook Lin & Bok Robinson Road WRITTEN OPINION OF THE RIS-30, ALA Tower O48542 Singapore Date of mailing (daylmonth/year) POR FURTER ACTION See paragraph 2 below PCT/SG2005/900084 17 March 2002 17 March 2002 17 March 2004 17 March 2004 18 March 2005 17 March 2004 18 March 2005 18 Mar	From the: INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY						
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(PCT Rule 43bis.1) Date of mailing (day/month/year) 1 JUL (305) Applicant's or agent's file reference 2040553-SLB International application No. ProT/SG2005/000084 17 March 2004 International application No. Priority date (day/month/year) 17 March 2004 International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 'G06F 12/14; H04L 9/18; G06K 19/073 Applicant DIGISAFE PTE LTD et al I. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items: Box No. II Basis of the opinion		INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY					
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	Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Telephone No. (02) 6283 2213					

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/SG2005/000084

٠.	x No. I	Basis of the							•		
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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/SG2005/000084

Statement		
Novelty (N)	Claims 2, 3, 5	YES
	Claims 1, 4, 6	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 2, 3, 5	YES
	Claims 1, 4, 6	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-6	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Novelty (N) and Inventive Step (IS)

- D1) US 2004/0103288 A1 (Ziv et al.) 27 May 2004
- D2) US 2002/0188856 A1 (Worby) 12 December 2002
- D3) WO 2001/035193 A1 (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION) 17 May 2001
- D4) US 6199163 B1 (Dumas et al.) 6 March 2001
- D5) EP 911738 A2 (CALLUNA TECHNOLOGY LIMITED) 28 April 1999
- D6) US 2003/0177379 A1 (Hori et al.) 18 September 2003
- D7) WO 2003/012606 A2 (STONEWOOD ELECTRONICS LTD) 13 February 2003
- D8) WO 2000/079392 A1 (FOTONATION, INC) 28 December 2000

Claims 1, 4 and 6 are not considered to be novel or inventive in light of D5, which describes a disk drive having an encryption/decryption circuit, a memory (EPROM 12), and security control means. Paragraph 27 discusses user authentication, and states that on power up, the drive is in the disabled state and is placed in the enabled state by inputting a numerical key that acts like a password. The numerical key is authenticated by the encryption hardware on the drive. If the numerical key is valid read/write access to the drive is granted, but if the numerical key is invalid then such access is denied.

Claim 6 is also not considered to be novel or inventive in light of citations D1 to D4, which each disclose a method of protecting data in which an encryptor is exposed to an interface only upon successful user authentication.

Citations D6 to D8 do not disclose the invention as claimed.

Industrial Applicability (IA):

The claimed invention finds use in the field of data storage and clearly meets the requirements for industrial applicability.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/SG2005/000084

Box No. VIII	Certain	observations	on the	international	application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

1) The use of the phrase "said interface" in claims 4 and 5 is unclear. Claim 4 discloses "a first interface" and "a second interface" and it is not readily apparent which one of these interfaces is being referred to.